



# Your **ROTSOCPE** for Thursday, May 7, 2009

for the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, USA

## **NATHAN'S AUDIOVISUAL PRESENTATION FROM BEIJING**

**NATHAN WANG HAS A SHOW-AND-TELL FOR US** this week, with stories and pictures of his experiences last summer at the 2008 Olympics, and with snips on the handy piano of some of his music from the event. Nathan's commute to work is a bit longer than most of us: he zips between New York and China at a moment's notice, right now in preparation for the opening of his musical "Imelda" on Broadway in October (it's the story of the First Lady of the Philippines, a co-production of the Pan-Asian Repertory Theater of New York and the East-West Players in L.A.) We are fortunate to have our favorite composer-member in town this week (we *hope* he'll be in town!).

**NATHAN'S FRIENDLY SMILE** and down-to-earth style at our meetings covers his talents and versatility as a composer and musician. We forget our neighbor has a strong background in scoring animated and live-action films. He started with the animated Fox Kids' Network production of "Eek the Cat", which ran for six years. This led to "Felix the Cat," Bruce Willis' "Bruno the Kid," and Steven Spielberg's "Toonsylvania. He completed the score for "Tom and Jerry: the First and the Furry" for Warner's, and composed for the anime film "Highlander: Search for Vengeance" for acclaimed Japanese director Yoshiaki Kawajiri.

**NATHAN SCORED THE DOCUMENTARY** "Price for Peace" for Spielberg, and music for numerous Jackie Chan movies, which took him to China to record with and conduct the Shanghai Symphony. Amy Tan chose him to compose for "The Chinese Siamese Cats" with the L.A. Phil, performed at the Hollywood Bowl, and the Los Angeles Opera commissioned him to write "On Gold Mountain." Nathan was honored by a grant from the National Endowment of the Arts to write three musicals, the most recent of which is the new "Imelda". He's also well known in Asia's musical community because of his award-winning arrangements for many of the pop artists in Hong Kong, Taiwan, and China. He received the Singapore Grammy Award for "Best Arrangement" of a song.

**FOR THE BEIJING OLYMPIC FESTIVAL**, Nathan's music was performed by an 85-piece Chinese traditional orchestra, including 40 big Chinese taiko drums and 100 Shaolin monks performing martial arts inside the Forbidden City. He'll show-and-tell-and-play about this great Festival at this Thursday's luncheon.

## **THE MIGHTY HMS MIDERACT AT WAR**

**THE HMS MIDERACT** was not one of Lord Nelson's warships, or even part of the Royal Navy. We wrote about the fund-raising accomplishments of the HMS Mideract a couple of weeks ago, and at least one Rotarian read it much too fast, puzzled by the "her majesty's ship" title. Slow up, and pay attention: "HMS" is Huntington Middle School, and "Mideract" is Rotary's slightly muddy term for its middle-school clubs. You might continue to think of them as "junior highs," but they're now moved to the middle.

**"ROTORACT" CLUBS** are in colleges, and sometimes in communities for men and women in their late teens and twenties. "INTERACT," of course, are clubs for high school students, such as the two our club sponsors at SMHS and Southwestern. "MIDERACT" clubs in middle schools aren't yet recognized by RI, and so far there aren't any official "KIDDERACT" or "KINDERACT" clubs for pre-school and elementary school kids, but several Rotary clubs around the world have helped boys and girls in practicing service in their communities.

**DENISE WADSWORTH** has been quietly leading some of her Huntington students in service projects through our local Mideract Club. A handful of HMS Mideractors, after hearing a talk from Shirley Pozzuoli about her childhood polio experience, wanted to help "feed the Rotary Pig" in the war to free the world of the polio virus. The story a couple of weeks ago described their success: in a short campaign, they raised more than \$2,300 that will purchase 3500 doses of polio vaccine, and that's as mighty as anything the Royal Navy did in ruling the waves.

## **MAY 2009**

### **MAY**

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|-----------|------------------|---|
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Noon</b>      | <b>Nathan's music and the Beijing Olympics</b>  |
| <b>14</b> | <b>Noon</b>      | <b>DARK – NO NOON MEETING</b>   |
| <b>14</b> | <b>6-8 p.m.</b>  | <b>THE MAY FIESTA at the Old Mill</b><br><i>Please RSVP to Terry, if you've not done so</i>               |
| <b>20</b> | <b>6:00 p.m.</b> | <b>Night on the Town at the Doubletree in Monrovia</b><br><i>Another RSVP, to Lucille, if you haven't</i> |
| <b>21</b> | <b>Noon</b>      | <b>We meet at the San Marino Public Library – Art Contest</b>   |
| <b>21</b> | <b>1:35 p.m.</b> | <b>Board meets for an hour after our library program</b>  |

# THE ROTOSCOPE

For the Rotary Club of San Marino, California, U.S.A.

May 7: Nathan at the Olympics



## FIRST GRADE ASSIGNMENT

**THESE SOUND A BIT TOO PRECOCIOUS, BUT ...**  
*a Rotarian sent these precious statements, allegedly from first graders, and of course Rotarians always follow the "is it the truth?" as the number one test, so this list must be true.*

*The teacher gave each child half a well-known proverb, and asked them to come up with the rest:*

**DON'T CHANGE HORSES** *until they stop running.*

**STRIKE WHILE THE** *bug is close.*

**IT'S ALWAYS DARKEST BEFORE**  
*Daylight Savings Time begins.*

**NEVER UNDERESTIMATE THE POWER OF**  
*termites.*

**YOU CAN LEAD A HORSE TO WATER BUT** *how?*

**DON'T BITE THE HAND THAT** *looks dirty.*

**NO NEWS IS** *impossible.*

**A MISS IS AS GOOD AS A** *mister.*

**YOU CAN'T TEACH AN OLD DOG NEW** *math.*

**IF YOU LIE DOWN WITH DOGS, YOU'LL**  
*stink in the morning.*

**LOVE ALL, TRUST** *me.*

**THE PEN IS MIGHTIER THAN THE** *pigs.*

**AN IDLE MIND IS** *the best way to relax.*

**WHERE THERE'S SMOKE, THERE'S** *pollution.*

## BEN SCHMID WOULD GO FOR THIS

**ROTARY'S 2009 CONVENTION** is in Birmingham, England, and we've admired the earnest efforts of our British brethren to stir up tempting reasons for us to go. The organizing committee has been sending us weekly bulletins to share with you, hoping you'll join Tinker and Emile in Birmingham June 21-24.

**THIS WEEK'S OFFERING SHOULD** intrigue our engineer member, Ben Schmid. We don't get to see much of Ben, as he spends his days drifting around Balboa Bay in his Sabot, and that's our loss. He might like this Rotary attraction, however: the World's First Cast Iron Arch Bridge, built in 1779, with a new museum costing twenty million pounds, telling all about the bridge's history. A ribbon-cutting by Prince Charles and his fellow Rotarians is set to open the museum during the RI convention.

**"THE BRIDGE LOOKS AS GOOD** as the day it was built," promises Rotarian Barrie Williams in his email. "Our Ironbridge Gorge area once boasted more furnaces and forges than anywhere else in the world. It was the Silicon Valley of the late 18<sup>th</sup> century, with factories churning out glass, ceramic, and cast-iron goods."

**THERE'S AN OUTDOOR "VICTORIAN TOWN"** that's part of the Iron Bridge Museum development. (Well, Queen Victoria wasn't even born when the bridge opened, but let's not quibble with our RI friends.) In the village, you can "learn to cure drunkenness at the chemist, watch the printer and candlemaker at work, converse with the hatmaker, and watch Shakespeare plays as they were customarily performed – in the street." Post-convention day trips will be offered so you can go see the bridge and its "Victorian Town".

**BEN – AND YOU – CAN STILL REGISTER** for the convention. Learn all about it at:

[www.rotaryconvention2009.com](http://www.rotaryconvention2009.com)

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**LOIS FIGURES THAT**  
**THE EASIEST WAY TO FIND SOMETHING LOST AROUND THE HOUSE**  
**IS TO BUY A NEW REPLACEMENT FOR IT.**